

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-5635



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kenichi NISHIKAWA et al.

Application No.: Unassigned

Filed: February 28, 2001

For: SPARK PLUG

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-43351. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 and 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

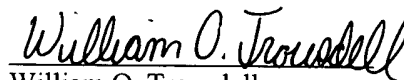
b. Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-106234. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 and 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 28, 2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO Form 1449Attorney Docket No.
040894-5635Serial No.
UnassignedApplicants
Kenichi NISHIKAWA et al.Filing Date
February 28, 2001Group
UnassignedJC839 U.S. PTO
09/794151

02/28/01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	4,084,976	Apr. 18, 1978	Hinton			
	4,120,733	Oct. 17, 1978	Knapp			
	4,256,497	Mar. 17, 1981	Knapp			
	5,677,250	Oct. 14, 1997	Knapp			
	5,859,491	Jan. 12, 1999	Nishikawa et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation YES NO	
	EP 0 959 542 A1	Nov. 24, 1999	Japan				
	10-236845	Sep. 8, 1998	Japan			abstract	
	11-43351	Feb. 16, 1999	Japan			abstract	
	11-106234	Apr. 20, 1999	Japan			abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.